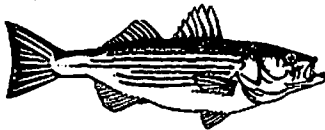


## Drop A Line

By LINDY BLAISDELL

Lots of news from the bridge. Fishermen along the rail are reporting huge stripers chasing pogies. Some are caught, like the 50-incher last week; however, several are lost to break-offs as they swim under the bridge and scrape the line across the barnacles living on the pilings. Chunk herring or chunk pogie are the bait of choice. Best bet is to fish the outgoing tide for the lunkers, hoping they will swim seaward avoiding the tangle with the bridge supports.



Sea bass are in catchable numbers from the bridge. Sea worms and clam baits are favored by bait fishermen seeking these tasty fish. Sea bass are recognized by their dark brown to black coloring, humped back, spiny dorsal fin and wide tail. Recreational size limit is 12 inches with a daily possession limit of 20.

Anglers seeking summer flounder, fluke, are reminded the season is now open and the size limit this year is 16.5 inches with a daily limit of seven. As of May 1, cod must measure at least 23 inches while haddock remain at 21 inches. The daily limit is 10 of either or in combination. Winter flounder continue at a 12-inch minimum with eight per day in possession.

Commercial striped season will begin in a few weeks. The recreational fishermen will continue to enjoy the 28-inch keeper limit one fish per day and it must be kept whole except evisceration. Commercial fishermen are restricted to hook and line only with a 34-inch size limit; there is a 40 fish total per vessel possession limit. Commercial fishermen must have a rod and reel permit to catch and sell stripers, they are available through the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries. Contact [marine.fish@state.ma.us](mailto:marine.fish@state.ma.us).

Dave Bitters, Baymen Outfitters, has announced several new striped streamer patterns. One that caught my eye is called the Baymen Rattler. It is tied with a small glass rattle in the body. This streamer, says Dave, is supposed to attract those extra finicky schoolies, especially in choppy waters.

Anyone interested in taking the Coast Guard's boating safety course at home can do so at no cost. Go to [boatUS.com](http://boatUS.com) then click on Boating Safety. This on-line course is approved by the National Association of State Boating Safety. The course is designed to give both novice and experienced boater a basic reminder and overview of all things that make boating fun and safe. At the end of the course a certificate is issued to all that take the course and can be used for discount pricing in the participating marine industry.

Salmon, salmon, salmon, they keep coming at us from federal hatcheries. Another 150 or so have been released into selected ponds throughout Massachusetts. Both Little and Long Pond, Plymouth, again received a portion of the latest allotment. Little

Pond is little as its name implies. Only 43 acres in size with a depth of 50 feet, Little Pond is one of the more popular ponds on the South Shore. Fishermen from all over line the shoreline throughout the trout season. Fly fishermen beat the surface daily year round. Because Little is so popular and accessible it receives brood stock salmon several times a season.

Long Pond is four times larger at 211 acres and twice as deep at over 100 feet. Long Pond has a reputation of carry over trout, BIG UNS, and is more popular with fishermen that troll and still fish live bait. Little Pond has a decent population of largemouth bass; however, Long Pond not only has largemouth but a healthy population of smallmouth and white perch. Rumor has it a 10-pound largemouth was caught in Long Pond a few weeks ago???

Special note to Bobby Z and Jay, try Little Sandy Pond in Plymouth with surface plugs. The water is low enough to walk around the pond without boots. The pond is only about ten acres; you should be able to split at the beach, circle the pond and meet back at the beach in less than two hours.

Good luck.